

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF

1 Oct 01

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program – Ecuador

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities in Ecuador to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information and to request and Embassy welcome packet.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 to 15 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: June/July (one FAO), Jan/Feb (2nd FAO)

(3) Program Description: Two officers per year conduct ICT in Ecuador. FAO trainees can attend the Ecuadorian Army Advanced Course for Captains at the *Escuela de Perfeccionamiento* located in Quito. Course dates vary and are scheduled with the assistance of the DATT. Generally, the school begins in January, with graduation in July or August. Trainees decide whether to attend the course after discussions with the ARMA and based on their individual Programs on Instruction. FAO conduct regional travel

(4) Prerequisites: CPT/MAJ, branch immaterial, Spanish 2/2 or better.

b. Property:

(1) Government: 1994 Jeep Cherokee
2001 Mitsubishi Montero
2 stoves, freezers, refrigerators, washers, dryers, and
generators; assorted TA-50; UV water purifier
Use (but not ownership) of desk, computer, color ink jet
printer, telephone (w/ DSN and IVG access) in the DAO

(2) Personal: Recommend that all FAO trainees bound for Ecuador ship their POVs. All HHG crates should be lined with plastic to prevent any damage that may occur from sitting on the tarmac with no overhead cover in Quito. Power/surge protectors are highly recommended. Uniform of the day is civilian

attire. Civilian Clothing Allowance (CCA) is authorized; ensure it is included in orders. Even with inclusion of CCA on PCS orders, the process will probably have to be completed from Ecuador; FAO files contain all necessary information and forms.

c. Housing: Officers receive overseas housing allowance (OHA) and must arrange for privately leased housing. Housing is not generally well maintained. It is up to US standards in design, but construction and wiring flaws are common.

d. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: Embassy provides excellent nursing support to the FAO and dependents to include vaccinations, physical exams, and various routine prescription medicines. For more serious problems, FAOs and their families can use one of two local hospitals in Quito. A list of English-speaking, US-trained medical personnel is available through the embassy health unit. Medical costs/expenses are paid at the time of treatment by the FAO and reimbursed through TRICARE Latin America. Over-the-counter (OTC) medicines are expensive, but readily available. It is recommended that FAOs bring a 30-day supply, especially for children's medicines. Dependent dental care is processed in much the same manner as medical care. Delta/Concordia dental now covers most of Latin America.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Most dependents attend either Alliance Academy, Cotopaxi School or home school. There are other options available, however. Alliance and Cotopaxi provide standard English instruction with Spanish instruction worked into the curriculum. The U.S. government pays tuition and the one-time registration fee.

(3) PX/Commissary: Embassy maintains a very small, expensive commissary on station. FAOs can order goods in bulk (case lot) quantities once a month from the commissary in Charleston, SC. Most common goods and a large number of recognizable name brands are available at reasonable cost on the local economy. The Embassy provides the opportunity to join a membership plan (for a fee) for the major local supermarket chain. The membership allows the cardholder to purchase goods at a discounted rate (similar to a Sam's Club or Costco membership in the U.S.). FAOs are authorized to ship up to 1000 pounds of consumables IAW the JFTR. Supermarkets are generally well stocked, but if needed a year's supply of contact lens solution should be brought by FAO as it is not normally available in Quito at any reasonable cost.

(4) Gym: The DAO maintains a well-rounded gym in the storage building adjacent to the Embassy. FAOs are provided a key and the facility is available for use 24 hours a day. The equipment includes free weights, dumbbells, treadmill, stair master, elliptical runner, and stationary bicycle. The use of this

facilitates obviates the need to join a local gym, thus saving FAOs approximately \$300-400 dollars per year in gym membership fees.

e. Language Instruction Availability: Spanish tutoring is available at sites near the embassy for FAOs and family members, at personal expense.

f. Rater: ALUSNA (Navy)
DATT/ARMA

g. Address:

(1) Mail: AMEMB Quito
DAO 5340
APO AA 34039

(2) Message: USDAO QUITO EC

h. Phone (prefix from CONUS is 011): 593-2-2503-822 (voice)
593-2-2561-344 (fax)

i. Climate: Similar to DLI's in Monterey, CA, warm and temperate most days. Sweaters and long sleeves are recommended. Altitude in Quito is over 9000 feet above sea level. Sunblock and sunglasses should be used. Theoretically, there are distinct dry and rainy seasons, but much has changed due to recent El Niño phenomena. This said, the summer (May-September) is the dry season and the winter (October-April) brings cooler temperatures and almost daily rain in the afternoon.

3. Additional Information:

a. Bring CGSC materials. You will have time to complete the course.

b. Travel can be conducted before and/or after host nation school attendance. Normally, there is no travel conducted in the month of October due to the wait for budget approval, although exceptions to this rule of thumb are possible.

c. Since September 1998, Quito has been under a state of alert due to the active volcano Guagua Pichincha located some 10 miles to the west of the city. A large venting of ash occurred in September 1999 and the watch condition remains in effect. Additionally, to the south of Quito lies the volcano Tunguragua that vents almost every day and has led to a state of "orange" alert and restricted travel in that vicinity.

d. Support and relations with the entire DAO are excellent. Their philosophy is, "We take care of our own," and they do!

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